

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1.     A method of disabling at least a portion of at least one  
2     personal electronic device on board a vehicle, comprising:  
3                 sending a radio frequency (RF) signal from a transmitter on  
4     the vehicle;  
5                 receiving the RF signal by a receiver of the at least one  
6     personal electronic device; and  
7                 interpreting the RF signal in a manner causing at least a  
8     portion of the at least one personal electronic device to be disabled.
- 1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein sending the radio frequency  
2     signal is carried out more than once during a use of the vehicle.
- 1           3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the receiver is a Bluetooth  
2     receiver.
- 1           4.     The method of claim 1, wherein the receiver is a cellular  
2     phone receiver.
- 1           5.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                 encrypting the RF signal sent by the transmitter on the  
3     airplane.
- 1           6.     The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
2                 decrypting the RF signal by the at least one personal  
3     electronic device.
- 1           7.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                 providing an announcement relating to the disabling of  
3     personal electronic devices.

1           8.     The method of claim 1, wherein sending the radio frequency is  
2 continued throughout the duration of a period in which the personal electronic  
3 devices are to remain at least partially disabled.

1           9.     The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one personal  
2 electronic device includes a handheld computer including an RF receiver.

1           10.    A system for at least partially disabling personal electronic  
2 devices within a specified area, comprising:

3                   a transmitter configured to send a radio frequency (RF)  
4 signal, the transmitter located within the specified area;

5                   a receiver configured to receive the RF signal, the receiver  
6 being coupled to the personal electronic device;

7                   program logic configured to disable at least a portion of the  
8 personal electronic device in response to the RF signal.

1           11.    The system of claim 10, further comprising:

2                   an audio system configured to broadcast an audio warning  
3 relating to the automatic disablement of the personal electronic devices.

1           12.    The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2                   an encryption logic for encrypting the RF signal.

1           13.    The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2                   a decryption logic configured for decoding the RF signal.

1           14.    The method of claim 10, wherein the receiver includes a  
2 Bluetooth receiver.

1           15.    The method of claim 10, wherein the receiver includes a  
2 cellular phone receiver.

1           16. The method of claim 10, wherein at least one of the personal  
2 electronic devices is a handheld computer.

1           17. The method of claim 10, wherein at least one of the personal  
2 electronic devices is a cellular telephone.

1           18. The method of claim 10, wherein at least one of the personal  
2 electronic devices is a text messaging device.

1           19. The method of claim 10, wherein at least one of the personal  
2 electronic devices is a laptop computer.

1           20. A method of preparing an airplane for takeoff, the method  
2 comprising:

3                   providing a warning message to passengers relating to the  
4 disablement of personal electronic devices on board the airplane;  
5                   transmitting a radio frequency (RF) signal configured to be  
6 received by RF receivers of the personal electronic devices on board the  
7 airplane and configured to cause at least partial disablement of the  
8 personal electronic devices.

1           21. The method of claim 20, wherein transmitting the RF signal  
2 is carried out more than once.

1           22. The method of claim 20, wherein at least one of the RF  
2 receivers is a Bluetooth receiver.

1           23. The method of claim 20, wherein at least one of the  
2 receivers is a cellular phone receiver.

1           24. The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
2                   encrypting the RF signal.

1           25.   The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
2                   decrypting the RF signal by the at least one personal  
3   electronic device.

1           26.   The method of claim 20, wherein transmitting the RF signal  
2   is continued throughout the duration of a period in which the personal  
3   electronic devices are to remain at least partially disabled.

1           27.   The method of claim 20, wherein at least one of the personal  
2   electronic devices includes a handheld computer including an RF receiver.

1           28.   A method of preparing an area for a specific use, comprising:  
2                   providing a warning message to persons in the area relating  
3   to the disablement of personal electronic devices in and near the area;  
4                   transmitting a radio frequency (RF) signal configured to be  
5   received by RF receivers of the personal electronic devices in and near the  
6   area and configured to cause at least partial disablement of the personal  
7   electronic devices.

1           29.   The method of claim 28, wherein transmitting the RF signal  
2   is carried out more than once.

1           30.   The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the RF  
2   receivers is a Bluetooth receiver.

1           31.   The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the  
2   receivers is a cellular phone receiver.

1           32.   The method of 28, further comprising:  
2                   encrypting the RF signal.

1           33.    The method of claim 28, further comprising:  
2                    decrypting the RF signal by the at least one personal  
3    electronic device.

1           34.    The method of claim 28, wherein transmitting the RF signal  
2    is continued throughout the duration of a period in which the personal  
3    electronic devices are to remain at least partially disabled.

1           35.    The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the personal  
2    electronic devices includes a handheld computer including an RF receiver.